

REMARKS:

In the Office Action mailed on April 20, 2004, the Examiner objected to drawings because of small, hand written numerals, objected to claim 2 because "having" should be -have-, objected to claim 5 because "including" should be -includes-, rejected claims 1-4, 9 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Kaufman et al. (US 5,199,884), rejected claims 5-7 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. section 103 (a) as being an unpatentable combination of Kaufman et al. and a duplication of parts or an obvious alternate to polarization, rejected claims 8 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. section 103 (a) as being an unpatentable combination of Kaufman et al. in view of Okura (US 5,975,916), and rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. section 102 (a) as being anticipated by Ito.

With this amendment claims 1, 2, 5, and 9 have been amended and claim 13 has been canceled. Claims 1-12 remain in the application.

The drawings have been amended, as suggested by the Examiner, by providing formal drawings with properly printed numerals and proper cross hatching. No new matter has been added.

Claims 2 and 3 have been amended to correct the informalities pointed out by the Examiner.

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to include, among other things:

- a) a first or plug connector housing with posts defined in part by two outer walls located in a respective corner of the housing
- b) a second or receptacle connector having passages extending from the mating face through the mounting face with inner walls forming the four corner, and
- c) the outer walls of the mating posts being snugly fit against the inner walls of the mating passages with the outer walls of the mating posts extending all the way to the mounting face of the second or receptacle connector.

As stated in the specification of the subject application on page 10 beginning on line 10

and ending on line 17,

"Because mating posts 29 extend all the way down to and through mounting face 34a/36a of the receptacle connector, considerable surface areas of engagement are provided between mating posts 29 of the plug connector, and mating passages 56 of the receptacle connector. These interengaging surface areas are indicated by double-headed arrows "B". These considerable interengaging surface areas are provided notwithstanding the fact that mating posts 29 are beveled, as at 29a, to facilitate blind mating of the connectors. These significant interengaging surfaces are afforded because the mating posts extend all the way through the receptacle connector".

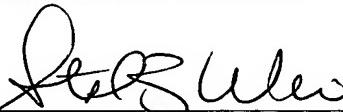
None of the cited references teach or suggest any of these elements nor can they meet the objectives of providing significant interengaging surfaces. More specifically, as shown in Figure 6 of Kaufman et al., the aligning plastic posts 44, although defined by two outer walls located in two corners, only engage a small upper portion of the walls of the recess 96. Therefore, one of the post walls of Kaufman et al. will not fit snugly against the inner wall of the mating passage extending all the way to the mounting face. The mating connectors of the Okura and Ito et al. references have four corners slidingly mating with each other. However, there are no outer walls of any mating posts which extend all the way to the mounting face of the second or receptacle connector. The bottom wall of recess 13, as shown in figure 4 of Okura, will prevent this full extension to the mounting face. The top wall 21 of Ito et al., as shown in Figure 2, will prevent the full extension of center post 11 a to the mounting face. Also the mating surface 25 of the upper connector, as shown in Figures 1 and 2 of Ito et al., extends only to the U-shaped portion of the terminal in the mating connector and is therefore prevented from extending all the way to the mounting face.

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The Applicants believe that the objections and rejections raised by the Examiner have been overcome with the amendments made herein. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow all of the claims remaining in the application to grant into a patent.

Respectfully submitted,
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